

IN THE SPECIFICATION

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The IFGAs may use stiff or flexible material, attaching two pivoting and/or gliding fixation points of the SFCs, as shown in Figures 8 and 9, and extend down to the convex contour of the superior facet below. As shown in Figure 8A, an end of the IFGA arm 808 snaps onto a gliding peg 810 retained in the SFC 812. The IFGA may feature a curved slot 820, as shown in Figure 8B, facilitating at least the degrees of freedom depicted in Figure 8C. The use of a convex gliding surface preferably provides a slot for a pedicle post, as shown in Figure 10, retained with a locking cap 1002, or a gliding socket for a pedicle "ball" 1102 as shown in Figure 11. A convex gliding surface is shown at 104, 106, and tapered screw anchor at 1200 with locking mechanism 1202. Varying lengths may be provided according to the invention to mix and match so as to accommodate patient physiology, as appropriate.

The anchoring pedicle screws are low in profile, tapered and provide varying diameters and lengths, as appropriate. Different materials, including titanium, may be used for construction. As shown in Figure 12, the anchoring pedicle screws 1200 include a dynamic SFC locking section 1202, separate locking nut 1204, Morse taper proximal stem 1206 and a separate IFCG ball 1208. A screw holder 1210 fits onto the locking section for placement purposes, in conjunction with a holding peg drill sleeve 1212.

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Figure 15 illustrates the way in which the pedicle screws are introduced into the vertebrae 1502 using the symmetrical alignment guide 1330. Once the SAG is properly positioned, holding peg drill sleeves ~~1504, 1506~~ 1212 are placed into the opposing ends of the guide, and holes are drilled 1402 and tapped 1404, as shown in Figure 16, after which the screws 1200 may be introduced as shown in Figure 17. Figure 18 shows the way the various pieces are assembled onto the anchoring pedicle screw 1200 once in position, including a toggle 1202 to accommodate different angles, 1804, lock nut 1204, and ball 1208. The pedicle is shown at 1210.